



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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## **Colorado receives national achievement awards in cancer prevention and data collection**

DENVER— Two Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment programs, [Women's Wellness Connection](#) and the [Colorado Central Cancer Registry](#), have received national achievement awards by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for innovative and effective practices in preventing and tracking cancer.

Women's Wellness Connection competed with four other nominated states and received the annual program achievement award for being the most outstanding breast and cervical cancer early detection program in the country. The program provides breast and cervical cancer screening to eligible women at more than 130 sites through the collaborative efforts of multiple statewide providers.

"Our Colorado team works very hard to ensure low-income, uninsured women get necessary screening to save their lives and monitor their health," said Rachel Foster, Women's Wellness Connection director. "The program has made some landmark achievements in recent years that we will continue to build upon."

Some of these accomplishments include

- screening nearly 18,000 low-income, uninsured women in 2011;
- winning a National Promising Practices' competition for the program's bundled reimbursement payment system;
- meeting all CDC quality performance indicators since 2008; and
- serving as a lead program for the Connect to Care project that streamlines coordination of screening services.

The Colorado Central Cancer Registry received the CDC's first award of its kind in outstanding program achievement, along with the state of Kentucky. The registry tracks the incidence and mortality of cancer in Colorado residents.

Randi Rycroft, director of the Colorado Central Cancer Registry said, “This award recognizes the achievement Colorado has made in taking data to action. These data are critical to the success of cancer control in Colorado and in the country. Our data collection system allows us to assess the progress being made in cancer screening and early diagnosis and advances in treatment resulting in increased survival for Coloradans.”

Some of the Registry’s accomplishments include

- consistently meeting rigorous quality standards in data collection;
- participating as a Specialized Cancer Registry with nine other states in collection of detailed and advanced data; and
- implementing innovative projects such as piloting a program that will assist oncology practices in providing treatment summaries and care plans to patients, working with physicians to provide educational materials to colorectal cancer patients whose families may be at increased risk for colorectal cancer, and collaborating on a report called “Cancer and Poverty” that will enable more targeted cancer control programming.